

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 7, 8, and 10 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicant AMENDS claims 7, 8, and 10 and CANCELS claims 1 and 9.

Applicant greatly appreciates the Examiner's indication that claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Samec (U.S. 5,763,054) in view of Menzer (U.S. 3,137,601). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable Samec in view of Menzer, and further in view of Babb (U.S. 5,730,922). Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Samec in view of Menzer, and further in view of Speakman (U.S. 6,503,831).

Applicant has amended allowable claim 10 to be in independent form including all of the features of base claim 1 and intervening claim 9, canceled claims 1 and 9, and amended claims 7 and 8 to depend from claim 10.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Samec in view of Menzer; claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable Samec in view of Menzer, and further in view of Babb; and claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Samec in view of Menzer, and further in view of Speakman are now moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 10 is allowable. Claims 7 and 8 depend upon claim 10, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claim 10 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

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Reply to the Office Action dated January 26, 2010

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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